

# navigator\*

Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

The Russian Invasion of  
Ukraine: A Guide for  
Advocates



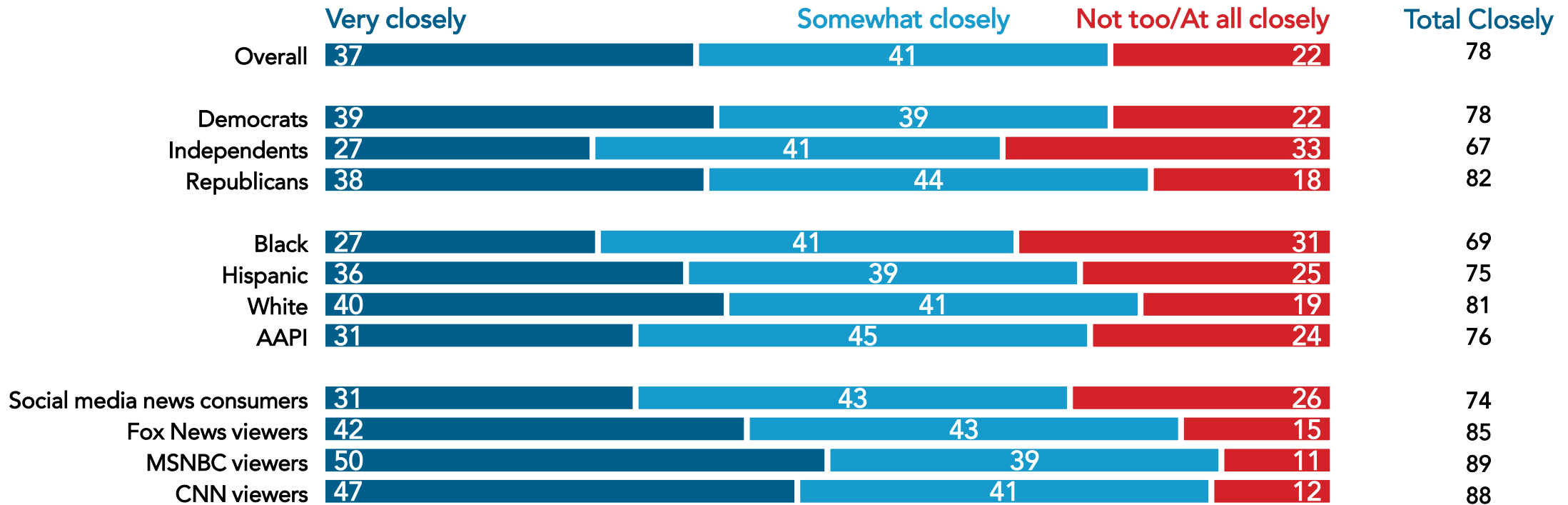
## Key Takeaways:

- Americans are closely following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and feel Biden and Congress need to be focused on it – and feel like they are prioritizing it.
- Americans are most worried about human rights violations and deaths in Ukraine, and increased gas prices resulting from sanctions – though worries about gas prices do not deter support for sanctions against Russia.
- As Putin and Russia remain deeply disliked across partisan lines, Donald Trump is seen as more pro-Russia than pro-Ukraine in the current conflict while Biden and Democrats in Congress are seen decisively as pro-Ukraine.
- The strongest messaging on Biden's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine focuses on deterrence and Russia's violation of core principles of peace and security.

# Majorities Are Following the Russian Invasion of Ukraine Closely in the News

At least four in five Fox News viewers (85%), MSNBC viewers (89%), and CNN viewers (88%) report following the news closely, while just 74% of social media news consumers say the same.

How closely would you say you are following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the news?



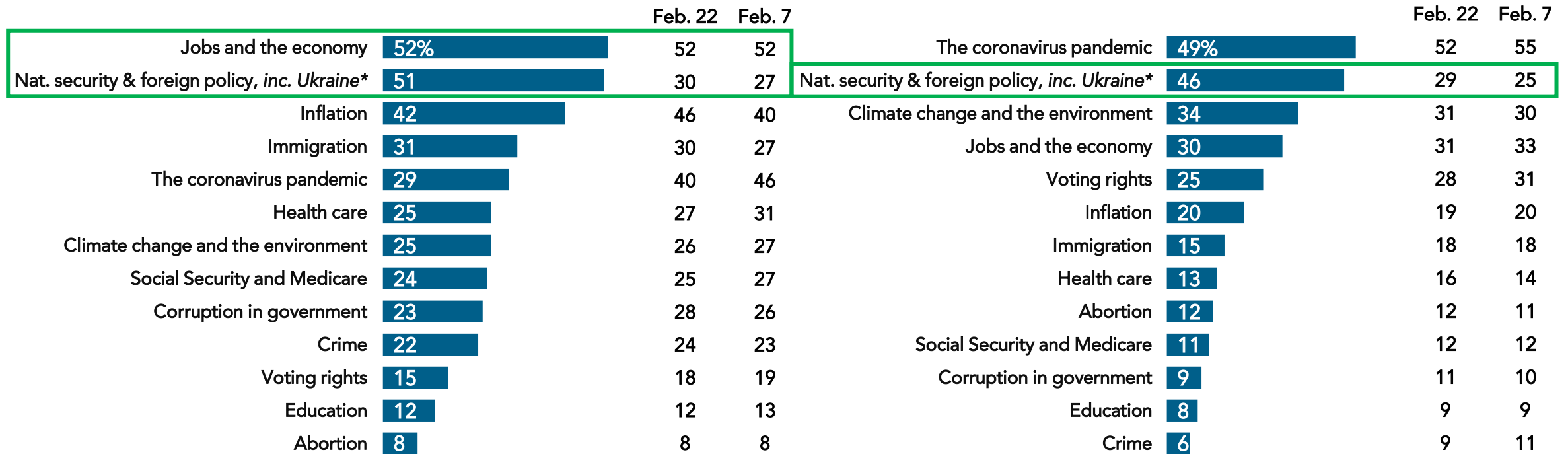
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 3-March 7, 2022.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Foreign Policy Is Seen as a Growing Priority for Biden and Congress, and Americans See Them Meeting the Moment

Since early February, there has been a 24-point increase in the share who say that “national security and foreign policy” is one of the most important issues for Biden and Congress to focus on, and 46% say they see it as Biden and Congress’s focus.

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for President Joe Biden and Congress to focus on.

Which of these issues do you feel President Joe Biden and Congress are actually most focused on?

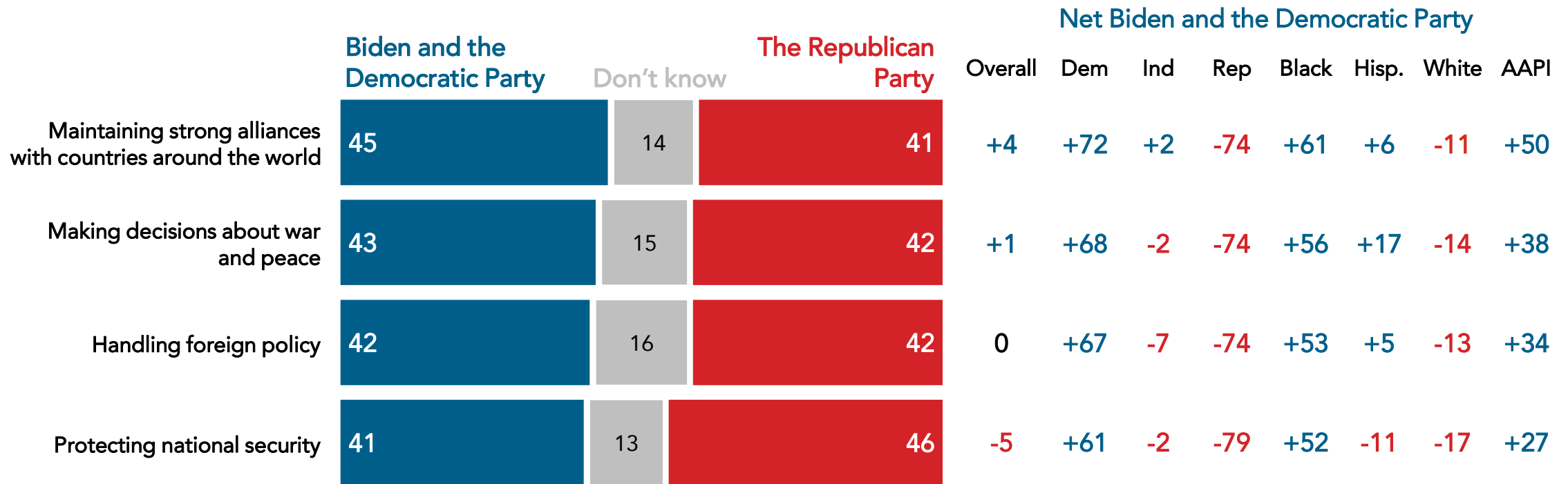


\*Previous iterations of this question phrased this as “National security and foreign policy.” Given recent events, we added language to specify the situation in Ukraine.  
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# Americans Split Close to Evenly on Which Party is Trusted on National Security and Foreign Policy Issues

Biden and Democrats have a narrow advantage on “maintaining strong alliances with countries around the world” over Republicans (+4) while Republicans have a narrow advantage over Democrats on “protecting national security” (+5).

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle each one.

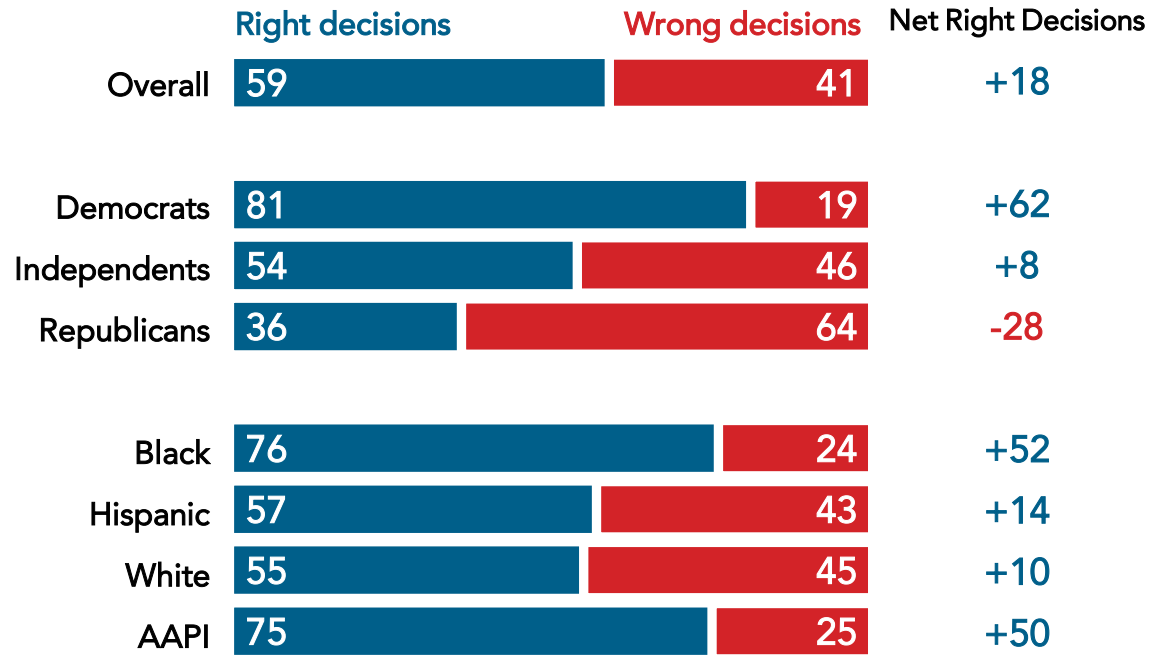


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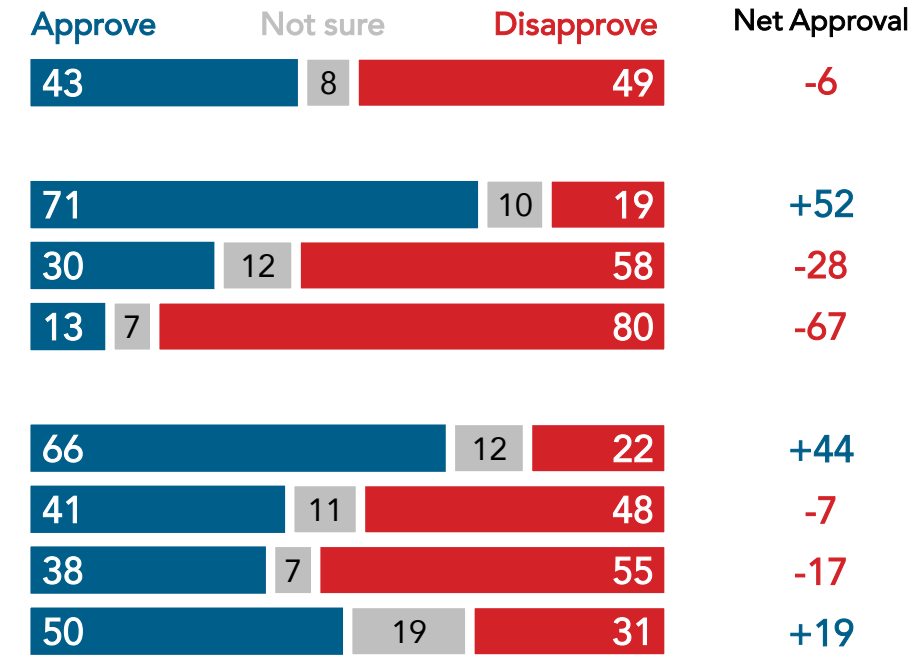
# Majorities Say Biden Making the Right Decisions on Ukraine – Including a Third of GOP – But Approval Is More Polarized

When asked to rate the decisions Biden has made on the situation in Ukraine, majorities of Democrats (81%), independents (54%), and nearly two in five Republicans say he has made the right decisions (36%). But, when asked if they approve of the job Biden is doing handling Ukraine, just 71% of Democrats, 30% of independents, and 13% of Republicans say they approve.

So far, do you feel President Biden has made the right decisions or the wrong decisions when it has come to the situation in Ukraine?



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling the situation in Ukraine?



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# “Foreign Policy Swing,” Who Disapprove But Say Biden Making Right Decisions, Are Male, High-Earning, & Less Ideological GOP

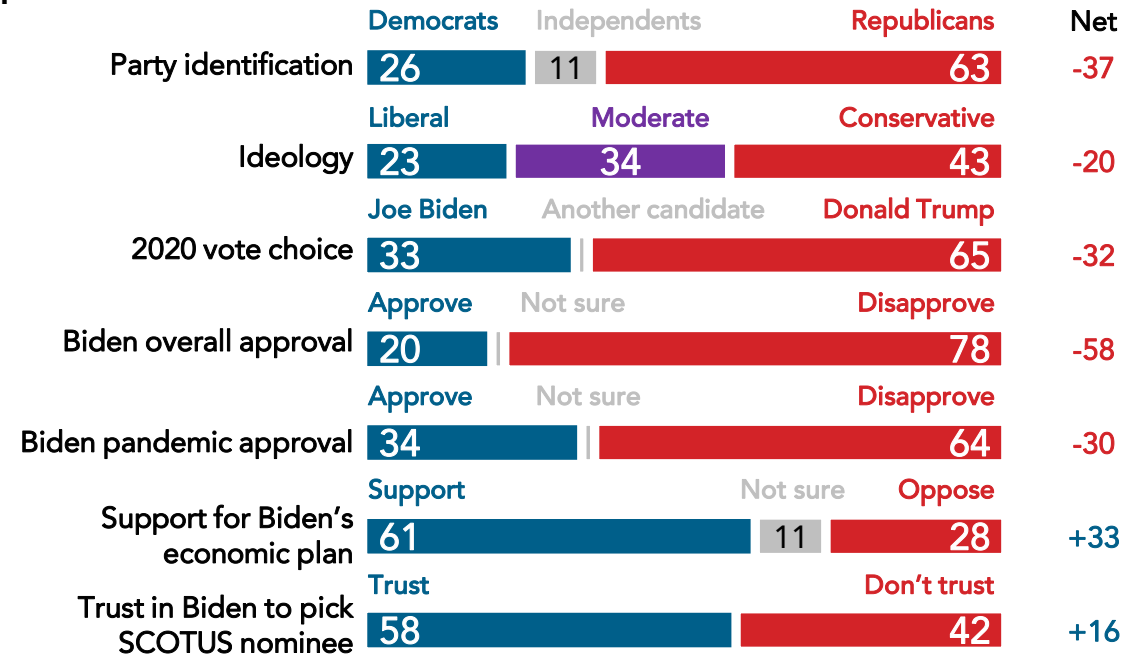
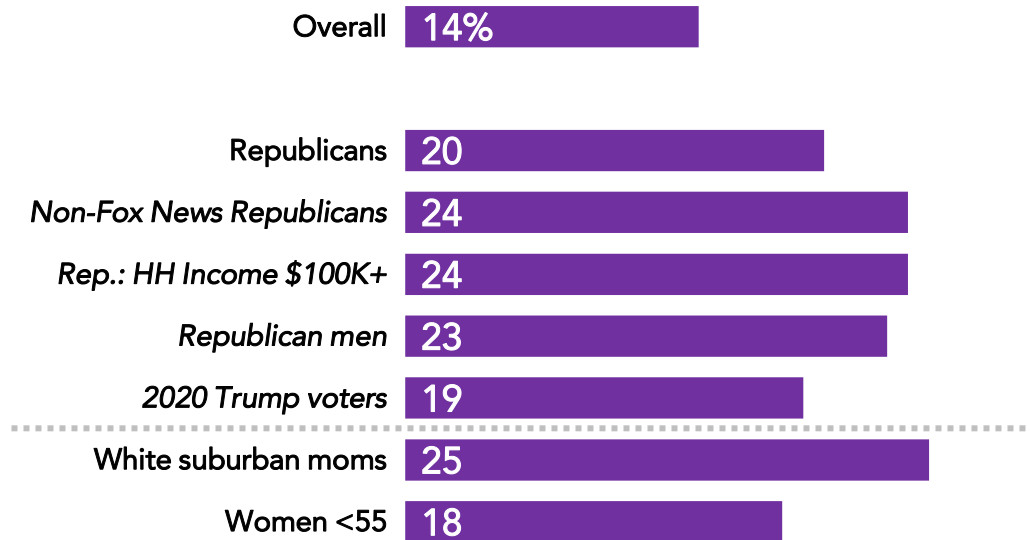
Those who say they disapprove of Biden’s handling of the situation in Ukraine but say he has made the right decisions so far are more likely to be Republicans, especially those who don’t watch Fox News, are men, and earn more than \$100,000 annually.

- They tend to give Biden low ratings overall, on the pandemic, and to have voted for Trump in 2020 – but on specific Biden policies, they do support his and Democrats’ new economic plan and trust him to choose the next Supreme Court Justice.

## Foreign policy swing:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling the situation in Ukraine? **Disapprove**, &

So far, do you feel President Biden has made the right decisions or the wrong decisions when it has come to the situation in Ukraine? **Right decisions**

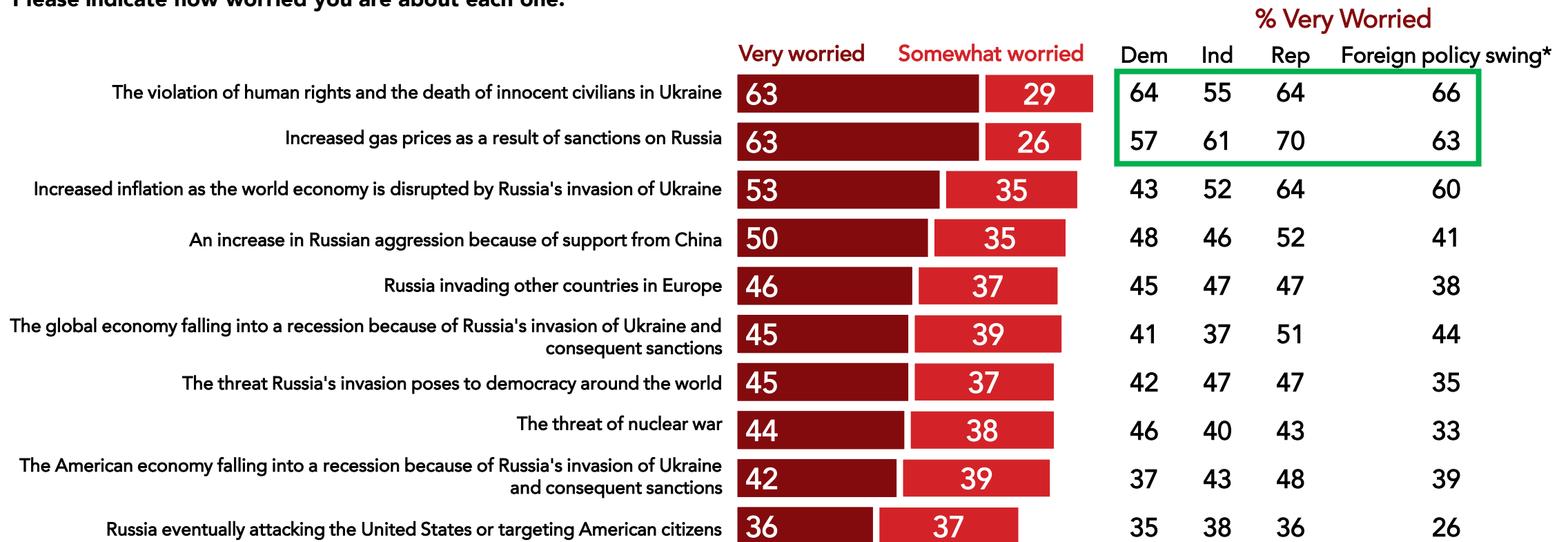


\*“Foreign policy swing” are those who give a negative rating of the job Biden’s doing handling the situation in Ukraine overall, but feel he has made all or mostly the right decisions on the situation. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 3-March 7, 2022. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Americans Are Most Worried About the Violation of Human Rights & Loss of Life in Ukraine and Increased Gas Prices

Democrats and foreign policy swing\* are most worried about the violation of human rights and the death of civilians, while independents and Republicans are most worried about increased gas prices as a result of sanctions on Russia.

Please indicate how worried you are about each one.



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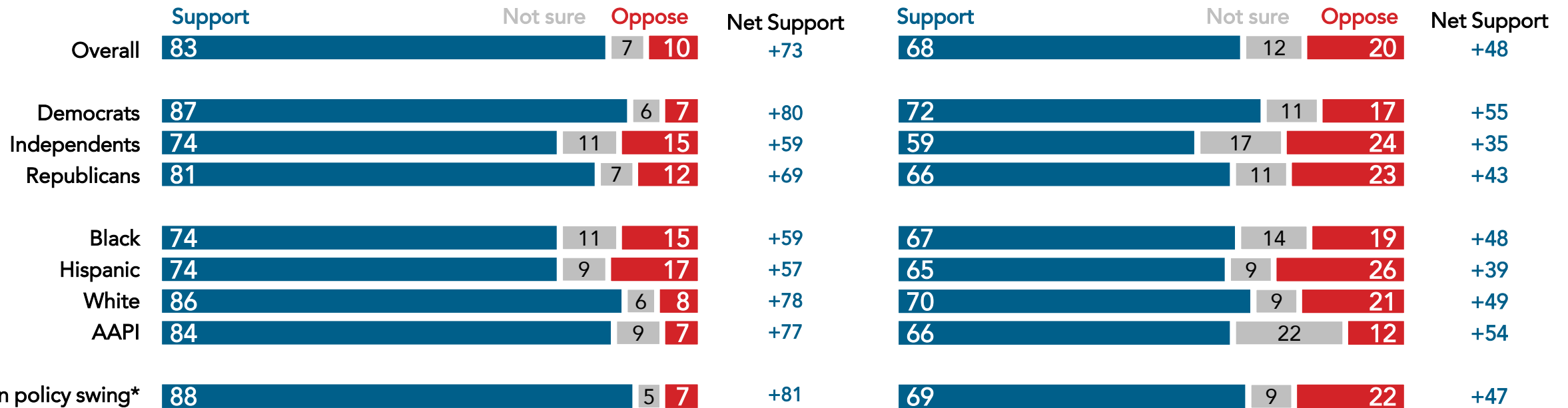
# Overwhelming Majorities Support the Economic Sanctions Imposed Against Russia and Sending Military Aid to Ukraine

Bipartisan majorities and foreign policy swing\* support sending military aid to Ukraine and the sanctions so far against Russia.

- Even among those say they are “very worried” about “increased gas prices as a result of sanctions on Russia” on a separate question, 86% support the sanctions including 60% who strongly support them.

As you may know, President Biden and leaders of other major countries have joined together to place initial economic sanctions on Russia as a way to discourage further military action against Ukraine. Do you support or oppose the economic sanctions so far against Russia?

Do you support or oppose the United States sending military aid including arms and air support to Ukraine to fight against Russia?

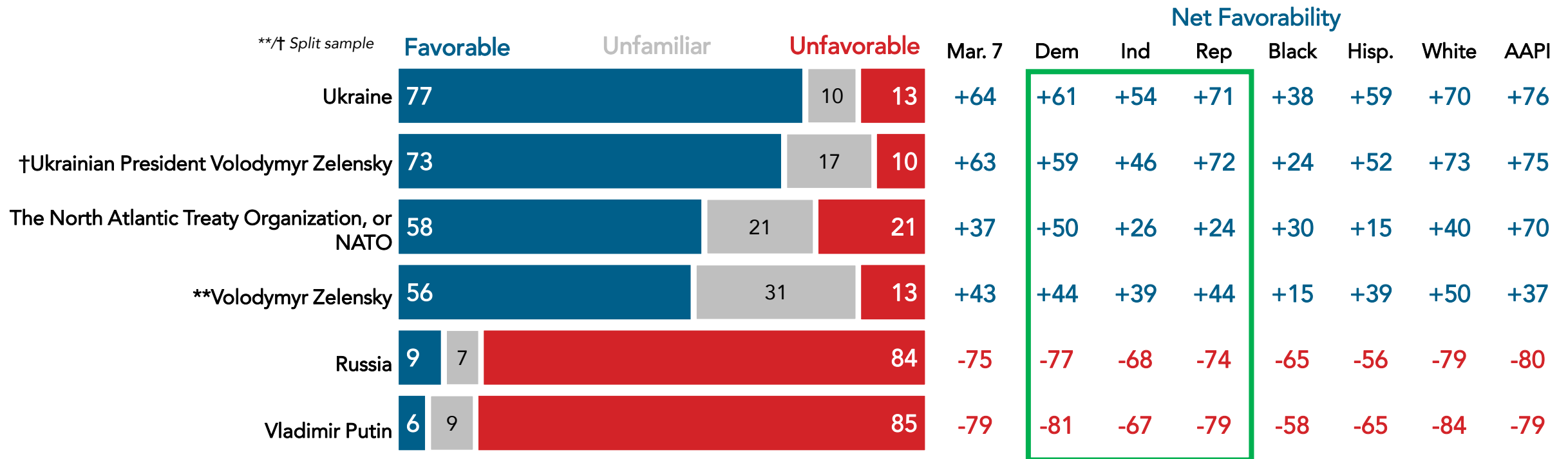


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# Across Party Lines, Ukraine, Zelensky, and NATO Are Viewed Favorably While Russia and Putin Are Overwhelmingly Disliked

Ukrainian President Zelensky's favorability increases 20 points (from net +43 to +63) when he is described with his title.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to...



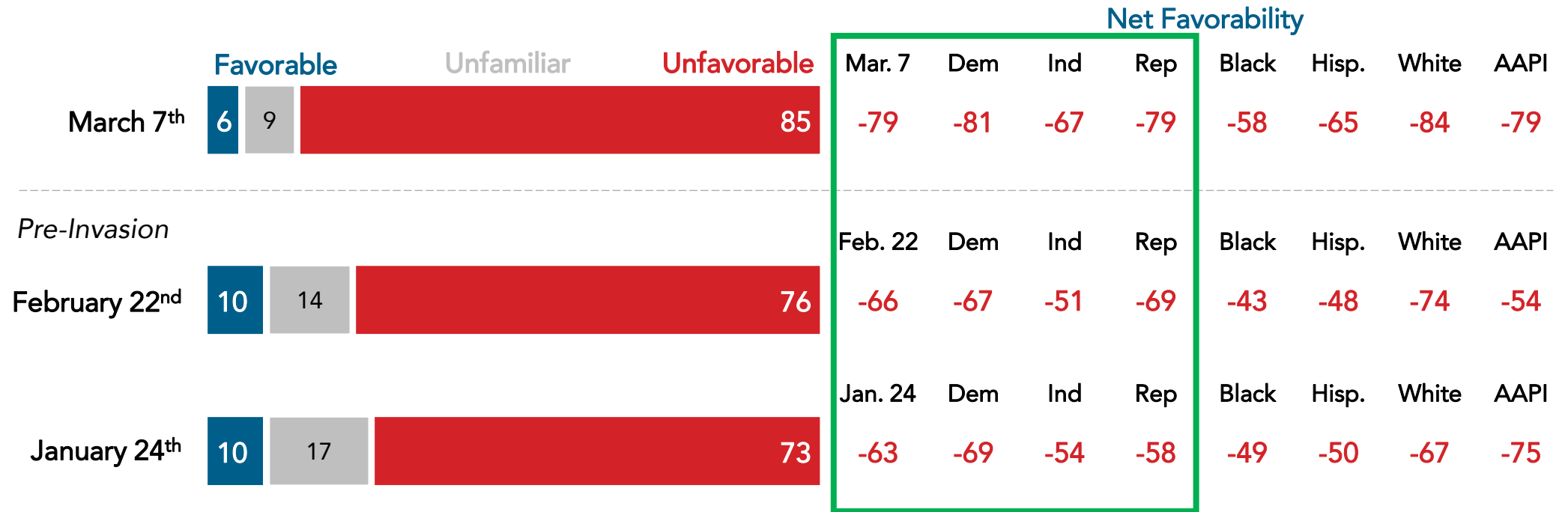
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 3-March 7, 2022. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Putin Is Deeply and Increasingly Disliked Across Party Lines

Putin's favorability has dropped a net 16 points since late January (from net -63 to -79).

- There is no partisan group in which Putin has strength: he is at net -81 among Democrats (down -12 since late January), net -67 among independents (down -13), and net -79 among Republicans (down -21).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Vladimir Putin.



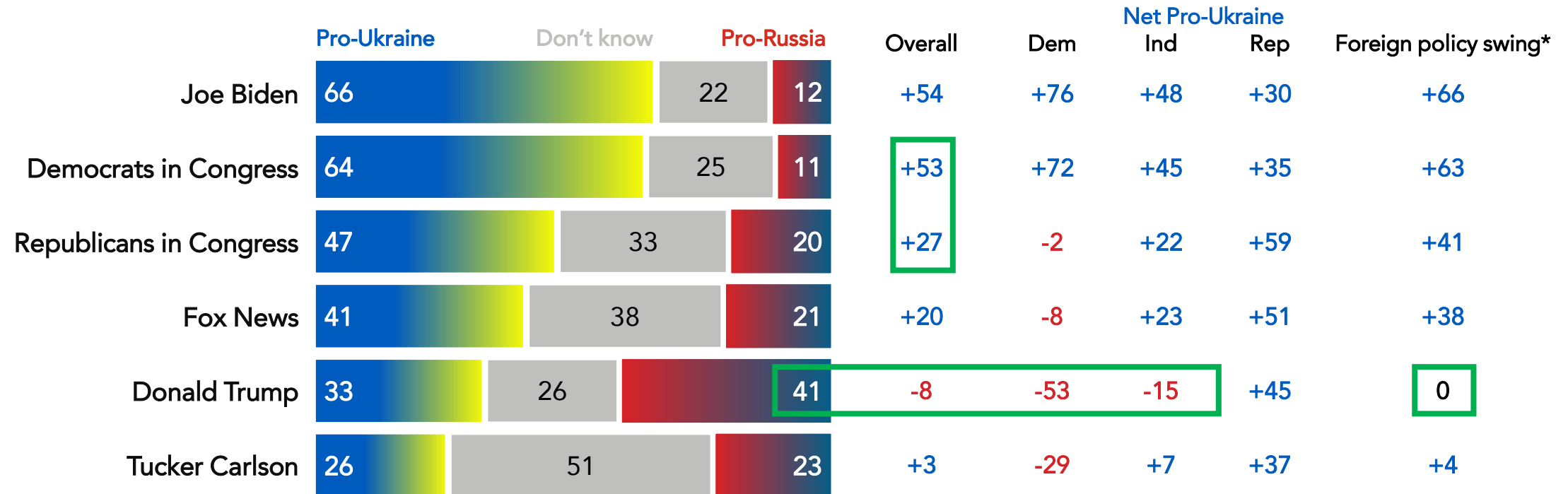
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted March 3-March 7, 2022. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Trump Is Seen as Pro-Russia in the Current Conflict, While Biden & Democrats in Congress Are Pro-Ukraine

Pluralities of Americans overall (-8 net pro-Ukraine), Democrats (-53), independents (-15), and foreign policy swing\* (breaking even) see Donald Trump as pro-Russia rather than pro-Ukraine in the current conflict.

- While a majority (64%) say Democrats in Congress are pro-Ukraine (net +53), just 47% say the same of Republicans (47%, net +27).

Please indicate whether you believe each individual or group is pro-Russia or pro-Ukraine in the current conflict.



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# Vast Majorities Agree With Statements About Standing Up to Russia and Disagree With Isolationist Statement

Roughly nine in ten agree with statements about standing up to Russia, whether to protect democracy abroad or to stop Russia's violent aggression. On a statement that the U.S. should stay out of Ukraine, 56% disagree, including 62% of foreign policy swing\*.

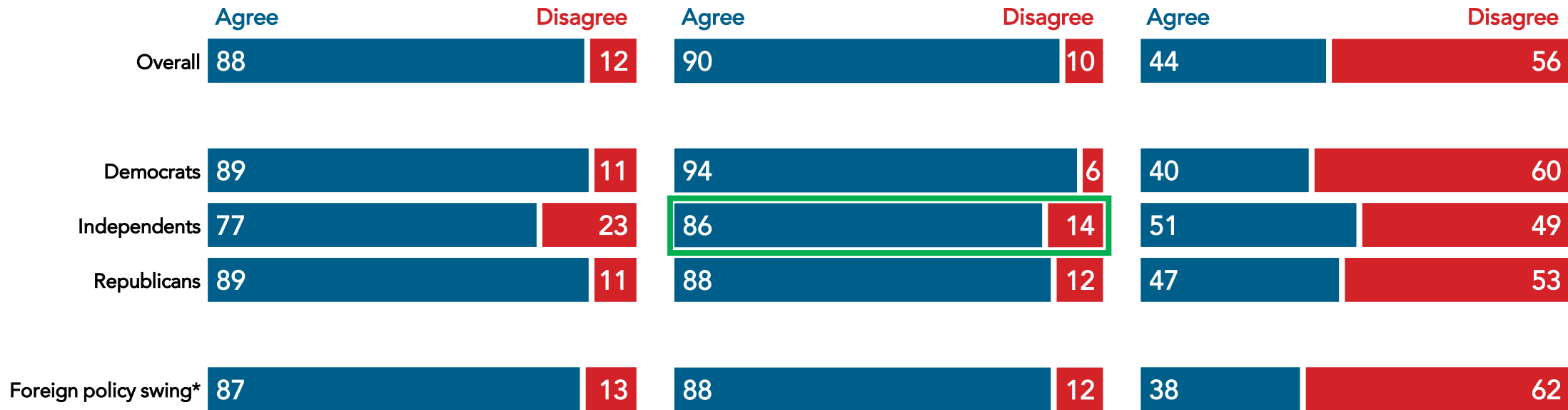
- Among independents on statements about standing up to Russia, 77% agree with one focused on protecting democracy, while 86% agree with one focused on stopping Russian aggression.

It is critical that America and its allies stand up to Russia in favor of protecting democracy abroad in countries like Ukraine.

It is critical that America and its allies stand up to Russia to stop Russia's violent aggression against other countries.

The United States has no business getting involved in Ukraine and we should stay out to protect American interests and the economy.

Do you agree or disagree with that statement?



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# Statements About Deterrence and Russia's Violation of Global Peace Are Most Convincing to Support Biden's Response

Among foreign policy swing\*, messaging that focuses on deterrence to prevent Putin from doing more and Russia's violation of global peace and security are the most convincing reasons to support Biden's response to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Please indicate how convincing each statement is as a reason to support the Biden administration's response to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

\*\*/† Split sample

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Not convincing	Overall	Total Convincing			
					Dem	Ind	Rep	FP swing*
**If we let authoritarians and dictators like Putin win when they invade a free, democratic country, Putin will only be encouraged to do more and will push to the border of Poland and other NATO countries	44	33	23	77	82	69	72	80
†If we let authoritarians and dictators like Putin win when they invade a free, democratic country, Putin will only be encouraged to do more and will push to the border of Poland and other NATO countries that have American troops in them	43	34	22	78	84	64	74	85
Russia has violated the core principles that uphold global peace and security, seeking to change the borders of a sovereign country by force, and needs to be held accountable: Biden and America's allies are doing just that	39	34	27	73	85	60	62	80
Biden and America's allies are protecting global democracy by standing up to Putin and Russia: with it, they protect freedoms like voting, freedom of speech, and the right to live a life free from dictatorship and violence	30	37	33	67	86	60	46	68
Biden and America's allies are taking the fight to Putin and his inner circle. Their sanctions and other actions have cut Russia off from global markets, frozen any assets they have in the U.S., and blocked their travel to the U.S.	29	41	30	70	85	60	56	72
Biden has cut Russia off from American industries that create things like semiconductors, lasers, communications equipment, and sea technology, which will choke Russia's economy, defense, and military operations	29	40	31	69	86	58	52	70
Biden and America's allies' sanctions against Russia have been devastating: Russia is experiencing a weaker currency, rising inflation, and reduced access to global financial markets, and their stock market has lost 40% of its value and trading remains suspended	28	40	32	68	84	61	52	66
Biden has committed to not sending American soldiers to fight in Ukraine, and instead will continue his support for Ukraine through financial assets, sanctions against Russia, and any other tools at his disposal	28	39	33	67	81	61	51	70
Donald Trump has praised Putin as a "genius" for his invasion of Ukraine: the U.S. is lucky to have a reliable leader like Joe Biden who doesn't support dictators and instead is focused on protecting global peace and security	26	23	52	48	69	40	28	45
Republicans are so blinded by their hateful partisanship that instead of supporting America and its allies, President Biden, and Ukraine, they are pro-Putin, pro-Russia, and anti-democracy	21	25	54	46	68	40	24	41

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# Strongest Rebuttals Against Republican Criticism of Biden's Handling of Ukraine Focus on Sanctions, Protecting Democracy

When testing a range of Democratic defenses of Biden's handling of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, lanes that focus on Putin losing and Biden not sending any troops to the conflict are less effective than sanctions and protecting democracy and freedom.

Which side do you find more convincing?

**Statement 1:** Republicans who say Biden is showing weakness in the situation in Ukraine: Putin never would have invaded Ukraine if he felt America had a strong leader, and the initial sanctions have done nothing to stop the invasion

**Statement 2:** Democrats who say Biden has led the U.S. and its allies in imposing powerful and immediate economic sanctions that punish Russia, cutting off its access to vital resources, weakening its industrial base, and undercutting its strategic ambitions

<b>Statement 1:</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Statement 2:</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Net Statement 2:</b>	<b>+6</b>

**Statement 3:** Democrats who say Biden is protecting democracy and freedom, ensuring countries like Ukraine can continue to live freely without threats of violence and have fair elections without interference from autocratic countries like Russia

<b>Statement 1:</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Statement 3:</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Net Statement 3:</b>	<b>+5</b>

**Statement 4:** Democrats who say because of Biden's leadership, Putin is losing in this conflict: he's failed to take the Ukrainian capital, he can't even open his stock market, and his people are protesting against him

<b>Statement 1:</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Statement 4:</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Net Statement 4:</b>	<b>+2</b>

**Statement 5:** Democrats who say Biden is taking on Putin economically, punishing Russia with sanctions as we should be, but he's still managing to hold Russia accountable without sending any American troops to the conflict.

<b>Statement 1:</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Statement 5:</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Net Statement 5:</b>	<b>+2</b>

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## About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Joel Payne, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

## About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,395 registered voters from March 3-March 7, 2022. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 74 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 103 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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